

CLATSOP COUNTY FARMERS' INSTITUTE IN OPEN SESSION

The Farmers' Institute, billed for this city yesterday morning at 10:30 o'clock at Pythian Hall, and the only drawback to the convention was the meagre attendance. This notable discrepancy, however, had no effect in diminishing the splendid quality of the instruction and interesting series of lessons put forth by those who were the accredited leaders of the work, nor in the genuine appreciation of the few who received the benefit of it all.

The rostrum was occupied by the following well known gentlemen: Dr. James Withycombe, Professor F. L. Kent, Professor A. B. Cordley, of the Oregon State Agricultural College, at Corvallis; Hon. E. T. Judd, of Marion county; Messrs. William Schulmerich, of Hillsboro; J. H. Reid, of Milwaukie; F. M. McElfresh, of Polk county; Hon. Herman Wise, Mayor of Astoria; and at intervals, by others, who were programmed for addresses during the day.

Promptly at the hour designated, Mayor Wise was introduced to the assembly, and in his happiest style, bade the visitors a cordial welcome to the city, and expressed the hope of the people here, that the meeting might prove, in every way, the basic move for the establishment of an abiding institution in this county, from which the progressive agriculturists of Clatsop might draw inspiration and knowledge adequate for the most they hoped for in the way of development and profit in their particular lines of industry.

By unanimous consent Mr. John C. McCue, vice-president of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce, was, upon motion of Judge J. Q. A. Bowley (who had called the meeting to order, as chairman of the local committee of the project here), made chairman of the institute, and it is needless to say discharged the duties of the post with consummate skill and readiness.

Dr. James Withycombe was then presented to the house and made a telling response to Mayor Wise's happy greeting. The doctor, who is a trained agriculturist, made a fine impression by the logical and wholesome way in which he presented the conclusions of the hour to those in waiting. He laid a predi-

cate in his opening declaration that the basis of all farming, constituted the basis of all development, and then resorted to his earlier experiences in Clatsop county, crediting her with wonderful expansion and presaging a still grander unfoldment along these lines if only the spirit of inquiry and the application of newer knowledge were given and used by the farmer for his guidance in the work ahead. He laid especial stress upon the fact that as the years passed by, the farmer would do his farming more with his head and less with his hands, thus not only simplifying the work, but adding to it the culture of ideals that should work finer and more profitable results. Lumber and fish were not all of Clatsop, and when the timber of the county had disappeared, the farm would be found in its place, and that farm would be among the best in the world. He then broadened the difference between destructive and constructive farming, and made a detailed exhibit that was peculiarly interesting, and wholly prejudicial to the constructive methods he and his gifted colleagues were here to inculcate. He lent emphasis to the fact that staple products were not all of farming; that the dairy, the poultry yard, the orchard and garden, and the raising of the minor stocks of cattle were all contributory to the scheme of successful farming, and urged their incorporation into the business of the producer hereabout. With a few parting suggestions, pertinent and welcome as to the purposes of an institute such as the one underway, the doctor invited the open discussion of all on the subjects announced in the program, and took his seat to the fullest measure of applause.

He was followed by Mr. W. J. Ingalls, the well known Lewis & Clark farmer, who was billed for an address on "Fruit Raising in Clatsop County," and did not know it until he had reached the city; but the genial hayseed from "up the creek" was at no sort of loss on account of unpreparedness, and replied promptly to the call for his address, with an interesting talk on the subject allotted him; he told of his boyhood days in Vermont and of the old-time methods of treating the apple, from the

day it was set out on the sunny side of the New England hills until the last particle of its fruitage had been garnered into the cellar of the homestead, and he made it decidedly interesting, too. He then passed to the same work as done in Clatsop county for the past twenty years, showing the quicker and more profitable methods of the west, as compared with the olden styles, interspersing his story with technical information as to culture and care of fruit as exemplified on his farm here; he showed a spirit of hopefulness as to the fruit future of the county, and admitted that it depended largely upon the good use made of just such opportunities as were presented in the institute now underway. His remarks were happily received and all he said left a distinct impression in favor of the realization of better and richer results here, by the use of the modern precepts applying to the care of fruit.

Mr. Ingalls' remarks were followed by one of the open "discussions" alluded to, and the same was productive of many valuable hints on special points; that were not brought out in the fuller addresses preceding, all which but tended to increase the value of the information thus elicited. Those entering into the discussion, which was led by Mr. Josiah West, one of the veteran producers of Oregon, seemed to thirst after information on the subject of pests; and the amplification of the matter evolved a lot of trenchant particulars on the "wooly aphid," "coddling moth," "oyster-shell house" and other tramp products inimical to apples and other fruit trees.

The final hour of the morning session was devoted to an exposition on the rules of planting, training, cultivating, heading, and pruning of fruit trees, by Mr. F. M. McElfresh, of Salem and Polk county, the gentleman living in the former city, and managing the magnificent farm and orchards of the Wallace estate, in the latter county. This young man is no spendthrift of his words, and his oratory might not be considered flawless under strict forensic rules, but he has a knack of clear, forcible, and convincing expression, that carries with it the conviction that he needs no coaching in his themes; and open the eyes of his auditors as he talks until they are, if possible, wider open than their ears. Mr. McElfresh had the sanguine ground of speaking from the standpoint of the master of a forty-acre apple orchard, which during the past season, marketed \$100,000 worth of splendid fruit, nurtured, gathered and marketed under his own supervision, and what he said along the lines of apple culture, and that of the lesser fruits, was listened to with avidity. He treated his subject consecutively, simply and clearly, avoiding all technicalities, and impressing his figures and conclusions, with the aid of the tree-sections, and drawings, that made the information understandable by all laymen included. He had the crowd entirely with him in his delineations and straightforward statements, and only the pressing and provocative claims of the dinner hour prevailed to interrupt him; and then only on the understanding that he was to renew his discourse on the resumption of the session at 1:30 o'clock.

Adjournment was then taken until that hour.

Afternoon Session.

During the session of the institute yesterday afternoon, F. M. McElfresh of Salem continued his address on the "Care of an Orchard." The speaker was introduced by O. I. Peterson who was chairman. Mr. McElfresh spoke on the manner of pruning an orchard properly the reason for deformed and undeveloped apples and the way an orchard should be kept in the best condition. The talk throughout was very interesting and many points in apple culture were brought out which are not generally known by the farmer of Clatsop county.

Following Mr. McElfresh came J. H. Reid, of Milwaukie, who gave a brief talk on "Orchard and Fruit Inspection." Mr. Reid is one of Oregon's practical farmers, and probably the largest grape raiser in the state, every year marketing an average of five tons of grapes per day throughout the entire season.

In his discussion Mr. Reid emphasized the importance of properly and neatly packing any fruit, with especial reference to apples, before sending it to market. "Bad and careless packing," said he, "is the reason the majority of Oregon's farmers cannot get a good price for their apples." He then said that the Hood River apples sold because

they were properly packed and thoroughly inspected. "The Hood River merchant in Portland does not question the quality of a box of Hood River apples, when it comes to him. The name itself is a guarantee that every apple in the box is in perfect condition," said he. Continuing Mr. Reid stated that the apples from Hood River were not packed by the farmer who raised them, but by an association.

The importance of having the box of apples labeled was emphasized in a strong manner. "Pack your apples with care and put no bad apples in the box; put some kind of a label on the box to give it an identity so that when the dealer sees your label on a box he may know it is a guarantee of that box's superior quality. Then," said Mr. Reid "you can get a greater price for your apples than 50 cents a box."

Professor A. B. Cordley of the Oregon Agricultural College, next gave a talk on "Spraying." The professor exhibited a number of short branches cut from trees afflicted with different diseases, such as apple scale, San Jose scale, etc. He explained how to rid an orchard of these pests and answered many questions in this regard which were put to him by different ones present. Professor Cordley advocated the use of a spray composed of lime, sulphur, and salt, as the best insecticide and fungicide known.

Dr. James Withycombe spoke instructively on the subject of "Orchard Fertility." He said that the method often adopted by farmers, of allowing their land to rest one year, in order that it might recover some of its lost fertility, was all a mistake. He said that this was in reality a harmful procedure. The doctor stated that if the agriculturist would simply plant vetch on the land that nitrogen would be conserved to the soil, and the land kept in good fertile shape. He said that the Oregon farmer was careless of the appearance of his orchard as a rule, and that if he would clean up, a great deal would have been accomplished toward the betterment of both the looks of the orchard, and the quality of the fruit would improve also. At the conclusion of his address those present were allowed to ask any questions they wished and answers were given to all by the instructor.

Evening Session.

Those Astorians who neglected to attend the evening session of the Farmers' Institute overlooked a treat. Even to a sailor the proceedings would have proved of unusual interest, and the large throng which packed the hall listened attentively to the addresses and recollections of those on the program. Several vocal numbers added to the excellence of the evening. The opening number was a selection by Misses Nell and May Utzinger, Margaret Busby and Kate Simons. They responded to a hearty encore. "The Island of Dreams" by Miss Thompson, likewise elicited a warm encore, and Miss Lucille McCann's solo was, as is always the case, enthusiastically rendered. Miss McCann also responded to an encore.

E. E. Smith, the Hood River sage, took to have delivered an address last evening, but he is not in the city, so Dr. Withycombe consented to talk to the assemblage. Dr. Withycombe's speech was of wide range and very interesting. He first devoted his attention to Oregon fruits and their reputation, and related that a young Oregonian who had recently returned from New York had seen Oregon pears advertised in one of the large retail houses. The young man stepped in to buy a pear and was charged 25 cents for it. The pear was one of a carload which brought the highest price ever paid in the country for pears—\$7.00 a box.

"I well remember the farmers' congress held here eight years ago," said Dr. Withycombe. "We were splendidly entertained then and the present gathering will, I am sure, prove equally as interesting. Astoria is making big improvement, and is destined to become a great city. The possibilities of this section baffle description, what with our timber, our fisheries, our dairying and our agriculture." Dr. Withycombe became sentimental in his description of the view of the harbor from the terrace above the city, and his word picture was so accurate and pretty that the audience applauded with much enthusiasm. Speaking of the possibilities of this state, he said the Willamette Valley alone was capable of sustaining fully 2,000,000, and that tens of thousands of acres of arid region lands are to be reclaimed and added to the wealth producing sections of the state. "Oregon," declared the professor, "will some day become the greatest state in this union, and with her agricultural and general commercial advancement she will, because of environment, produce some of the greatest intellects in the country. The Oregon boy who goes away always makes good, just as our products make good."

Dr. Withycombe concluded his address with an interesting statement concerning the work of the Oregon Agricultural College, where 500 young men and 200

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Mrs. James W. Welch followed Dr. Withycombe with a paper entitled "Miscellaneous Farming." Mrs. Welch pronounced the life of the farmer to be the most beautiful of all. "In the country I was never lonesome," said Mrs. Welch, and her tribute to the simple life was well stated. Mrs. Welch was born on an Oregon farm, and she declared last night that, were she to have her life to live over, she would unhesitatingly begin it on the farm. The evolution of Oregon farming formed an interesting portion of her address. Getting around to local conditions, Mrs. Welch urged the people of this country to build good roads, saying that suitable highways were the first requisite to successful rural development. The paper was full of interesting things, and Mrs. Welch was congratulated on all sides.

Stereoscopic views illustrating discourses by J. H. Reid, of Milwaukie; Professor A. B. Cordley and Dr. Withycombe, of the Agricultural College, concluded the evening's entertainment. The views showed the finest of the domestic animals, the Agricultural College buildings and equipment, and fruit trees ravaged by the pests which have given growers so much trouble. These illustrated lectures were not by any means the least interesting features of the day's entertainment.

This morning's session will be begun at 10 o'clock, and it is expected a large delegation will be present from the rural districts.

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NOTICE.

All voters of Clatsop county, irrespective of parties, are hereby invited and requested to meet and participate in a mass meeting to be held in "Logan hall" at Astoria, on Saturday, April 21, 1906, at 10 a. m., for the purpose of nominating a full county ticket to be voted for on Monday, June 4, 1906.

C. J. TRENCHARD

Chairman of the Citizens'

Committee of Astoria, Ore.

MAX W. POHL,

Secretary.

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